King Probers Told to Expect 'Blockbusters'

By TIM WYNGAARD
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WASHINGTON — Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, of the House Assassinations Committee has informed panel members to expect "blockbuster" developments in the investigation of the killing of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Committee members said Stokes told them the committee's investigating staff has developed "startling" information about the slaying of the civil rights leader in 1968. They said Stokes promised them a full briefing by the middle of next month.

The committee's investigation of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been scaled down and the panel's professional staff apparently has been spending virtually all its time exploring new leads in the King case.

Sources said Stokes has moved the headquarters for that investigation to St. Louis from Washington to lessen national media attention and to allow the staff to spend all the time it needs in Memphis.

In addition, the sources said, Stokes has told them the King investigators turned up "more than 100" witnesses who never have been interviewed by police officials. The probe has taken congressional investigators to Canada to pursue possible leads there as well, the sources said.

Word that new information is forthcoming, based on partial briefings of committee members by Stokes in recent days, is the first indication of any progress in the investigations.

Last August, after the committee was wracked by feuds between members and staff aides, Stokes slammed a tight secrecy seal on its work and hired Cornell University Law School Prof. G. Robert Blakey as new staff director.

To prevent leaks, only Stokes is being fully briefed by Blakey's staff on progress of the investigation, and Stokes is passing along part of the information to committee members. But Stokes promised the committee a full staff report by mid-November.

Some work is continuing in the Kennedy case, primarily on possible links between Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby and right-wing Cubans, according to the sources.

But primary attention is being devoted to the King matter "because the trail is a lot fresher there" and because early investigative work apparently has been more productive, according to the committee members.

Of the new witnesses in the King probe, about 60 are considered to be of little use, the sources quote Stokes as reporting. But the remaining 40 or more have turned over some "significant" information, according to those reports.

The Canadian end of the investigation centers on convicted King assassin James Earl Ray's claim that he was recruited there by a mysterious man whom he knew only as "Raoul" to take part in a gun and drug-smuggling plan. Instead he was framed for the King killing, Ray claims.

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James Earl Ray's Brother Queries FBI

By KAY PITTMAN BLACK
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Jerry Ray — brother of James Earl Ray, the man serving a 99-year prison sentence for the slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. — has filed briefs in federal court seeking to find out details about the Federal Bureau of Investigation's alleged electronic surveillance of King.

Filing a set of interrogatories (legal questions in writing which seek written answers from defendants), Jerry Ray's questions to the FBI deal chiefly with its investigations of King before and after his death.

Now living in Marietta, Ga., Jerry Ray in August filed a civil suit naming numerous defendants, including book writers and a publishing company as well as the FBI. He contended that he believes the FBI was furnishing material to writers and said he had been libeled by published accounts saying lately "that I knew my brother James killed Dr. King, that I was told by him he was going to do it and all sorts of other lies."

Ray wants the FBI to tell him if they have ever opened his mail or searched his residences after King's death.

Ray also wants to know if the FBI has any "knowledge or creditable information that plaintiff (himself) was culpable in the murder of Dr. King?"

He also asked if any members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which Dr. King headed, were under electronic surveillance by the FBI between March 28 and April 2, 1968, and if so, a list of their names. Ray wants to know on what date did the FBI first use an electronic device to record conversations between King and other parties he communicated with and what date "did the FBI terminate permanently the electronic surveillance of Dr. King."

Other questions include:

- Who initiated any alleged King surveillance?
- Who in government authorized it?
- How many times was such surveillance done without any authorization?

Ray also wants to know if the FBI has delivered to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and U.S. Dist. Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. any material resulting "from the bureau's electronic surveillance of Dr. King" which Ray claims Smith ordered placed in the National Archives.

Jerry Ray Poses Queries To FBI

Jerry Ray yesterday presented questions to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with a libel suit filed last month over a book about his brother, James Earl Ray, and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Jerry Ray listed 53 questions for the FBI, many concerning the agency's alleged surveillance of both Ray brothers and King, whose slaying James Earl Ray admitted.

The inquiries also deal with Jerry Ray's allegations that the FBI cooperated with George McMillan, author of "The Making of an Assassin," in providing information on the King case.

FBI officials have 30 days to respond.

A similar suit filed by James Earl Ray last year was dismissed by U.S. Dist. Judge Harry W. Wellford as frivolous. This suit has also been assigned to Wellford.

Eighteen questions were also filed yesterday for responses from Little Brown & Co., publisher of the McMillan book, which was also named as a defendant. Time, Inc., the parent firm, was a defendant in the earlier suit.